

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/858,478

Examiner

Carol S. Tsai

Applicant(s)

ICHIKAWA ET AL.

Art Unit

2857

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/22/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-39.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 17 May 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 11/22/2004
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Allowable Subject Matter*

1. Claims 1-39 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

U. S. Patent No. 5,311,437 to Leal et al. is the reference closest to the claimed invention.

Leal et al. disclose a computer-implemented materials selector tool comprising a digital processor, a data storage medium accessible by the digital processor, and a data base stored in the data storage medium, wherein the data base comprises a plurality of entries for materials and at least some of the data base entries include identification of the physical character of the material, identification of a procedure in which the material is operable, and a hazard/environmental assessment, so that the content of the materials entries in the data base can be chosen and the information may be selected, arranged, and displayed in a manner useful in making materials selection decisions. However, Leal et al. do not disclose a method for management of chemical materials comprising the steps of: providing a first data set containing substances that comprise said chemical materials, wherein said substances include controlled substances; providing a second data set containing said controlled substances; providing a third data set containing a ratio of discharge of said controlled substances in a process, wherein a fed substance and a discharged substance in the process are stored in said third data set and said discharged substance includes said controlled substance, and wherein said controlled substance is different from said fed substance and said controlled substance is generated in said process; analyzing a preset amount of said materials in said process and determining a quantity of said

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controlled substances utilizing said first and second data set; determining an emissions quantity of said controlled substances utilizing said ratio and said quantity of said controlled substances; and maintaining said third data set according to a preset interval of time; and including all of the other limitations in the respective independent claims.

JP 2000137747 to Ebitani et al. is the reference closest to the claimed invention. Ebitani et al. disclose an ideal chemical substance managing system capable of speedily and easily investigating influences to be exerted upon natural environments or safety by summing up environmental discharges based on a used quantity for each chemical substance and the environmental discharge ratio of that chemical substance. However, Ebitani et al. do not disclose a method for management of chemical materials comprising the steps of: providing a first data set containing substances that comprise said chemical materials, wherein said substances include controlled substances; providing a second data set containing said controlled substances; providing a third data set containing a ratio of discharge of said controlled substances in a process, wherein a fed substance and a discharged substance in the process are stored in said third data set and said discharged substance includes said controlled substance, and wherein said controlled substance is different from said fed substance and said controlled substance is generated in said process; analyzing a preset amount of said materials in said process and determining a quantity of said controlled substances utilizing said first and second data set; determining an emissions quantity of said controlled substances utilizing said ratio and said quantity of said controlled substances; and maintaining said third data set according to a preset interval of time; and including all of the other limitations in the respective independent claims.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


***Contact Information***

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carol S. W. Tsai whose telephone number is (571) 272-2224. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marc S. Hoff can be reached on (571) 272-2216. The fax number for TC 2800 is (703) 872-9306. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the TC 2800 receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1585 or (571) 272-2800.

In order to reduce pendency and avoid potential delays, Group 2800 is encouraging FAXing of responses to Office actions directly into the Group at (703) 872-9306. This practice may be used for filing papers not requiring a fee. It may also be used for filing papers which require a fee by applicants who authorize charges to a PTO deposit account. Please identify the examiner and art unit at the top of your cover sheet. Papers submitted via FAX into Group 2800 will be promptly forwarded to the examiner.

Carol S. W. Tsai

02/25/05

  
MARC S. HOFF  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800